

Victims' Compensation Assistance Program Advisory Council

March 16, 2017

Wilmington VCAP Office

- **Welcome**

The group discussed Council membership and empty seats on the council. The group welcomed Abby Layton as the representative for the Attorney General's Office.

- **Minutes Approval**

The meeting minutes from the last meeting were not approved, as there was not a quorum.

- **Old Business**

Change in Leadership of VCAP Advisory Board: at the last meeting the group discussed that Deb Reed would be willing to serve as the Chair of the council since Stephanie Hamilton is stepping down. We will need to revisit this at the next meeting when there is a quorum.

Financial Report: Cara reported on the financial situation at VCAP. The number of cases continue to rise. The fund is in good shape, but VCAP must continue to ensure that we are receiving all the revenue that we should be. Cara will work on obtaining reports for the different courts (if possible) regarding how many funds in restitution and surcharge VCAP collected per year. This will give us a sense of where there may be some holes. The group also expressed the desire to see the fund balance across a few years. Cara will work with the financial staff at DOJ to produce a report that reflects this information.

Moving and Relocation Handout: Cara shared the Moving and Relocation Handout with the group. This handout is shared with victims who are approved for the moving and relocation benefit. The victim receives a copy of it in the mail with his or her approval letter. The handout tells the victim what VCAP needs from him or her. It also informs the victim of what VCAP can provide. In the past, there has been some confusion over what role VCAP had when the victim qualified for the moving benefit. This will help make the benefit more clearly defined. The group discussed the idea from the last meeting of providing a handout that is something of a checklist regarding what a victim can and cannot receive from VCAP in regards to personal property following a crime. Cara explained how a checklist is not helpful in the way that we deal with cases. VCAP exists to provide for "actual loss" and our investigators take the time to talk to the victim and find out what it is that he or she has lost because of the crime. It is during this conversation that the victim and VCAP discuss what benefits would be appropriate. Initiating a checklist would make it seem that there is a one-size-fits-all regarding what we offer.

Loss of Support benefit: The group discussed the loss of support benefit in non-homicide cases, and its cap of \$3000. Cara offered that the benefit assists the victim during the

aftermath of the crime. It is designed to help during the transition and not be a supplement going forward through the victim's life.

- **New Business**

Nominations for Chair: will be saved for the next meeting.

2017 Meeting dates: confirmation of dates will be done via doodle pool.

- Proposed dates:

6/27 at 10am in Wilmington

9/19 at 10 am in Middletown

12/14 at 10 am in Wilmington

- **Public Comment:** Chiamaka Osegbu from University of Delaware asked for more information about the program – Cara stayed after the meeting to provide her with the additional information.

- **Adjourn**

The mission of the VCAP Advisory Council is to promote the financially sound and consumer-responsive operation of Delaware's statutory victim compensation assistance program through both regulatory and informal guidance.